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then determined by the cluster that the store is in (step 966).

The steps of FIG. 9 stop at step 970.

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Marked up versions of the above paragraphs, which show deletions in brackets “[ ]” and additions with underlining, to assist the Examiner in reviewing the application, have been included on separate pages entitled “MARKED UP REPLACEMENT PARAGRAPHS IN SPECIFICATION.”

In the Claims:

Please amend claim 1 as set forth below. A marked up version of the amended claim is included herewith on a separate page or separate page(s) entitled “MARKED UP CLAIM(S).”

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8. (Amended) An apparatus comprising a program storage media having computer readable code embodied therein, said computer readable code being configured for forming, using a computer, a plurality of stores into a plurality of clusters, comprising:

computer code for collecting store specific information;

computer code for providing optimized combinations for each individual store based on the store specific information; and

computer code for creating a plurality of clusters based on the closeness of the optimal combinations.

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